



# *Peter Heinz Daniels (Berlowitz)*

Holocaust Survivor: Terezin/Theresienstadt  
July 8, 1936 – May 24, 2021

# *Peter Daniels – Q & A*

Q & A Session from the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, CA

# Peter Daniels – Q&A

## HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE BEFORE THERESIENSTADT/TEREZIN

### **Q: *First feeling about the Holocaust?***

I don't recall what I knew about the war. I was isolated in a small flat in Berlin, with rare contact with the outside world. No newspapers, radio, movies, nor interaction with adults. So very little news filtered down to me.

### **Q: *What did you wish for during the Holocaust?***

Decent and adequate food, clothing, bedding and a more tolerant mother.

### **Q: *Did you get to see Hitler or Mengele?***

My mother and I would watch parades close to where we lived, and Hitler was often in an open car, waving to the crowds.

## LIFE IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP

### **Q: *What do you remember about arriving at the concentration camp?***

Arriving in the middle of the night, hungry and tired, from a two-day cattle car transport. Walked about a mile to inside the camp, finally stretching out on the bare floors of one of the large buildings, while rats scurried around the floor around me. (A normal train ride from Berlin to Prague is typically 5 hours).

### **Q: *What were the conditions of the camp?***

Imagine 40,000 to 70,000 people crowded into a facility built for 5,500. This was a transit camp where people came in and were shipped to death camps, as well as dying in the camp. That's why the population fluctuated. (This would be like West Linn and Lake Oswego combined populations ~65,000, crammed into the Portland Expo Center, which can hold a maximum of 7,000 people).

### **Q: *Describe a typical day in a concentration camp?***

Boredom, hunger, apprehension, fear, loneliness. I felt so lost.

# Peter Daniels – Q&A

## **SURVIVAL**

**Q: Did anyone help you survive (in the camps, ghetto, after the war)?**

Not that I remember.

**Q: Did any Nazis try to help you?**

I don't believe so.

## **LIBERATION**

**Q: What were your feelings at liberation?**

I am sure I was excited and deliriously happy.

**Q: What was the first thing that you did after you were free?**

The Red Cross came into the camp with food, clothing and medicine. I got some new clothing and new shoes, which I wore to bed for three nights.

**Q: Where did you go? What happened to you after liberation?**

My mother and I returned to Berlin because we had no other place to go. We lived in the American sector for about four months, then moved to a refugee camp (DP Camp). Two years later (1947), we immigrated to America.

## **IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST**

**Q: How did the Holocaust affect your life? Did it change the way you felt or viewed life?**

I do not remember a normal childhood. Hardly any happy memories; mostly living in my private hell; I often wondered how old I was because I didn't ever celebrate my birthday.

**Q: How would you react to Holocaust deniers (those who deny it happened)?**

Holocaust deniers are incompetent fools who need a forum, so they are not lost in the crowds.

# Peter Daniels – Q&A

## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PERISHED

**Q: If you'd like to say something special to anyone you lost during that time, what would it be?**

I wonder if we survivors are doing a good enough job; giving our testimonies so that you, who did not survive, will never be forgotten.

## REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST

**Q: Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?**

The Holocaust reminds us of the tragedies that the world allowed to happen; to forget the Holocaust is to give moral victory to all those who turned a blind eye.

**Q: How do you think the Holocaust has impacted history?**

The Holocaust has laid bare the darkest side of humanity. History should never forget it.

**Q: Do you ever think it will happen again?**

I am convinced that we have not seen the last of such a genocide. History has shown when societies face social and economic difficulties, scapegoats are not far behind.

## MESSAGE TO YOUTH TODAY

**Q: What message do you want to give youth today?**

Don't be too smug believing that another genocide can't happen. Human nature operates in a fragile environment which could collapse under wrong circumstances.

**Q: Why do you speak about your experience?**

I hope my story personalizes the statistical nightmare, that is so difficult and painful to comprehend. I do so because of my conviction that our young people, must carry on the legacy, stories, and lessons of the Holocaust so that its 6 million murdered Jews, and 11 million murdered non-Jews, will never be forgotten.

# *Georg Berlowitz Persecution Letter*

Peter's maternal grandfather's persecution letter from February 1942. Georg was Hilde Berlowitz's father. Hilde was Peter's mother.

Georg had already died from cancer on August 14, 1941. He was buried in Berlin. His death is noted at the bottom of the letter.

We know that the Nazi's instead took his wife, Anna Michels (step-mother). Anna was transported to the Łódz Ghetto in Poland, and we assume to a death camp. The Nazi death records show May 4, 1942.



ITS 092

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz  
Präsidium

Führungsstab

VII/6 - Lz N 6 a

Rktz.:

(Bei Beantwortung unbedingt anzugreben)

An das

Einwohnermeldeamt

in

Berlin N 0 55

Berlin SW 61, den 5. 2. 42

Bücherplatz 2

Tel.: Sammelnummer 66 54 61

Nachruf: 66 06 56, 66 07 11

Postfachkonto: Berlin 6070

Telegrammabschrift: Deutscheskreuz

238983 - 1942

Abt. II Meldeamt  
— - 7. FEB. 1942 —  
Berlin.

Auf Veranlassung des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz bittet das Deutsche Rote Kreuz um Mitteilung der neuen Anschrift der nachstehend aufgeführten.

Eine Zuschrift kam mit dem Vermerk zurück:

unbekannt verzogen  
ins Ausland verzogen

Heil Hitler!  
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz  
Der Auslandsdienst

I.A.

Lorenz

13. 2. 42

an d. K.

Personalien: Georg Böhmkefrühere Anschrift: Blu. N 0. Böhmke 42

jetzige Anschrift: .....

We. bf

Personalien:

Brief

erhielt den 9. II. 1942

69. Polizeirevier  
\* 11 FEB. 1942 \*  
Berlin.

Abtig. II - Meldeamt.

S. S.

Recke

Georg Böhmke, 10. 1. 79 Neukölln  
if Posen 86, ist am 16. 8. 41 auf  
Nr. Weddinger-3854. <sup>ursprünglich ergeben zuerst</sup>  
<sup>14. 1. 1942</sup>  
<sup>Berlin C 2, den</sup>  
<sup>Der Polizeipräsident</sup>  
<sup>11. Februar 1942 bezeugt</sup>  
<sup>19. Februar 1942 20. Februar</sup>

# *Peter Heinz Berlowitz Birth Certificate*

This is Peter's birth certificate, he is #1046. It is all in German. You will see in the right column, in 1939 the name "Israel" was added to his name. You will also see this on his German Jewish Passport.

In August of 1938, the government issued an Executive Order on the Law on the Alteration of Family and Personal Names requiring German Jews bearing first names of "non-Jewish" origin to adopt an additional name: "Israel" for males and "Sara" for females. The German government required Jews to identify themselves in ways that would permanently separate them from the rest of the German population.

There is also additional information in the right column indicating he was in Deggendorf (DP Camp).

A.

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, am 14. Juli 1936.

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persönlichkeit nach

Fr. Iannit,  
Karin  
Frodisch,

wohnhaft in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kurfürstendamm 55

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Wilmersdorf am 23. 1. 1939.  
Auf Grund der Zweiten Ver-  
ordnung vom 17. August 1938  
zur Durchführung des Gesetzes  
über die Änderung von Fa-  
miliennamen und Vornamen  
führt das nebenbezeichnete  
Kind zusätzlich den Vornamen

Wessel

Der Standesbeamte  
Hans

und zeigte an, daß von der

Begläubigt

Leitigen Geburtsurkunde am 8. Nov. 1939  
Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Charlottenburg

als Leitende Beamter der Geschäftsstelle  
des Amtsgerichts, Abt. 18.

wohnhaft in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kurfürstendamm 45a

Nr. 1046

zu Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kurfürstendamm 30

Berlin-Wilmersdorf am 14. Januar 1950

am 14. Juli des Jahres

tausend neinhundert sechzehnzig mittags

um zehn Uhr ein Kind

geboren worden sei und daß das Kind

die Vornamen

Peter Gräfin

erhalten habe. Die Erstgeborene erklärte, daß sie bei der Niederkunft

zugegen gewesen sei.

Der hier vorliegende Kür-  
länder, wahrscheinlich  
Siegendorf, hat durch  
Erklärung vor dem Standes-  
beamten des Landes am  
Siegendorf am 5. Janu-  
ar 1946 den ursprünglich  
Kinder seinen famili-  
naren "Kürländer"  
erhielt. Abschaffung am  
19. Oktober 1945 in Siegendorf  
Handbuch Siegendorf  
Nr. 82/45.

Der Standesbeamte  
In Vertretung  
Werner

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und

Karin Frodisch

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Wilmersdorf  
den 16. November 1950

Die vorstehend bezeichnete  
Verordnung ist durch Gesetz  
des Alliierten Kontrollrats vom  
20. September 1945 widerrufen.  
Der Randvermerk über den  
zusätzlich angenommenen  
Vornamen ist ungültig.

Der Standesbeamte  
In Vertretung Friede,

Der Standesbeamte.

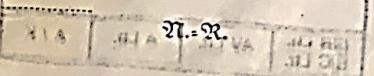
In Vertretung: Wimpfner

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Hauptregister beglaubigt

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, am 14. Juli 1936.

Der Standesbeamte.

In Vertretung: Wimpfner



# *Peter Heinz Berlowitz German Jewish Passport*

This is Peter's German Jewish Passport. His picture is no longer adhered to it. He had to always have this with him. This was also his "pass" that he had to show if he and his mother were stopped on the street. They were only allowed out in public during set times.

Note the addition of "Israel" to his name in the middle of the left page and the Nazi Eagle stamp on the right page.

We have the original, which is incredible considering all his possessions were confiscated!

30/VIII/43  
Lenné-Vorh.

28/9/43 Potsd

25/I/44 Potsd

18/III/44 Potsd

25/IV/44 Potsd

25/V/44 Potsd

25/VI/44 Potsd

25/VII/44 Potsd

25/VIII/44 Potsd

25/IX/44 Potsd

25/X/44 Potsd

25/XI/44 Potsd

25/II/45 Potsd

25/III/45 Potsd

25/IV/45 Potsd

25/V/45 Potsd

25/VI/45 Potsd

25/VII/45 Potsd

25/VIII/45 Potsd

25/IX/45 Potsd

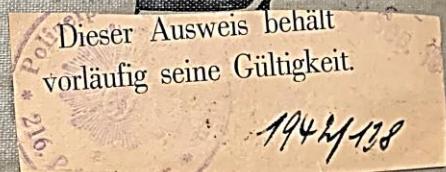
25/X/45 Potsd

25/XI/45 Potsd

25/XII/45 Potsd

25/III/46 Potsd

# Deutsches Reich



1944-138

F. Müller

## Kennkarte

30. 8. 1943

ausgestellt

von

erlaubt.

A 102 (8-13)

Kennort: Berlin-Niederschönhausen	
Kennnummer: A 738628	
Gültig bis 21. Januar 1944	
Name	Horowitz
Vorname	Yakov, Israel
Geburtsstag	8. Juli 1936
Geburtsort	Berlin-Niederschönhausen
Beruf	
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen	
Veränderliche Kennzeichen	
Bemerkungen:	
Gebührenfrei - R.R. Beb.-Buch Nr. 29/10/38	

Dienststempel	Rechter Zeigfinger
Lichtbild	Linker Zeigfinger
Dienststempel	
(Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers)	
Berlin-Niederschönhausen 21. JAN. 1943	
Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin	
283. Polizeirevier	
(Ausstellende Behörde)	
G. Müller	
(Unterschrift des ausstellenden Beamten)	

# *Peter Heinz Berlowitz Terezin Train “Ticket”*

This is Peter's Train Ticket for Terezin. We also have the original! We cannot believe it has not deteriorated.

Also included are two photos of Peter. The first is when he was about four or five (1940-1941), when he was left alone in the Berlin flat and a couple year prior to being “arrested” and sent to Terezin. This was the only photo of him prior to Terezin.

The second photo is from his Deggendorf-DP Camp documentation. He was probably 10 in this photo.

# ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Osoby došlé do Terezína z různých území, přežily v Terezíně podle publikace  
MSP, repatr. odbor: „Terezin-ghetto“

Berlovicová Hana Peter

rodná data: 8. 7. 1936

původní transp. číslo 13671 - I/98 - Berlin

folio v knize „Terezín“ 23

IV.

355

